

Marine Safety Office Houston-Galveston
Marine Safety Unit Galveston
Vessel Traffic Service Houston

Port Security Information Bulletin

PSIB 01-05

RESTRICTION OF POSSESSION OF PASSPORTS BY CREWMEMBERS IN PORT

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To avoid the potential entry of unauthorized foreign nationals into the United States, we are providing the following information to vessel and facility operators to assist them in their security measures.

All foreign crewmembers departing a vessel in the United States will hold an Immigration Form I-95. The form indicates whether the crewmember is in a D1 or D2 status. Those in D1 status are authorized to take shore leave; those in D2 status have signed off the vessel and are departing for home, or are leaving the vessel to be taken to a specific place, such as a hospital, under escort. Under no circumstance will a foreign crewmember be in personal possession of their passport in port.

Security Personnel who find any crewmember in possession of their passport in the process of departing a facility or vessel should confiscate the passport, return it to the vessel master, and restrict the departure of the crewmember until the Vessel and Facility Security Officers are satisfied that no port security concerns are posed by the unauthorized possession of the passport.

The following regulations are provided to explain the basis for these restrictions.

8 CFR 252.1-- Immigrations and Naturalization Service Regulations---Landing of Alien Crewmen

d) *Authorization to land.* The immigration officer in his discretion may grant an alien crewman authorization to land temporarily in the United States for: (1) Shore leave purposes during the period of time the vessel or aircraft is in the port of arrival or other ports in the United States to which it proceeds directly without touching at a foreign port or place, not exceeding 29 days in the aggregate, if the immigration officer is satisfied that the crewman intends to depart on the vessel on which he arrived or on another aircraft of the same transportation line, and the crewman's passport is surrendered for safe keeping to the master of the arriving vessel.

Any problems noted in vessel or facility security operations should be immediately reported to the Coast Guard at (713) 671-5133.


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